have to be resolved which will be resolved in phase II of the feasibility study which will only start after we agree to the principal terms which we are negotiating and that I hope will be completed by next month, by September.

*243. (The questioner (Shri Mohammed Afzal alias Meem Afzal) was absent, For answer Vide Col.... infra)

*244. (The questioners (Dr. Bapu Kaidate and Shrimati Kamla Sinha) were absent, For answer vide Col..... infra)

Attacks on security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir

*245. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have been killed/injured/abducted in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the period from January 1, 1994 to July 20th, 1994;

(b) out of the security officials killed/injured, how many belong to the army, how many to paramilitary forces and how many to Jammu and Kashmir police;

(c) out of the civilians killed/injured, how many were killed in cross firing and how many were victims of militants, killings;

(d) how many times were the security forces attacked by the militants during the aforesaid period;

(e) how many rocket attacks were launched on vital installations, Radio/TV stations and public/private buildings; and

(f) what additional measures are being taken to meet the increasing freqlency and ferocity of the attacks of militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) As per information made available by the State Government of J & K, during the period from January 1, 1994 to July 15, 1994, 526 civilians were killed and 956 were injured in terrorist violence, and 145 persons were kidnapped by the militants. In 1275 attacks on security forces, 102 security forces personnel were killed and 359 injured. During the same period 678 militants were killed. There were 40 rocket attacks by militants, which included attacks on vital installations and public and private building during this period.

(f) With a view to flushing out the militants curbing their activities and containing violence despite desparate efforts by the militants and their mentors across the border to escalate the same, anti-militancy operations are being conducted in a sustained manner. The operations are being closely reviewed and monitored and whenever necessary, the presence of security forces is being augmented in the vulnerable areas to provide protection to the people and security of vital installations, etc.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, the data given in the statement shows that both in scale and intensity, the terrorist activities have increased. From the data collected by me in reply to other Unstarred Questions in this session and the previous session, it is clear that 1,177 persons were killed in 1990, 1,393 persons were killed in 1991, 1,909 persons were killed in 1992. And from 1st January, 1993 up to the period for

which the information has been given, 3,964 persons have been killed. If you tabulate the figures of abductions, kidnappings, attacks on security forces and other incidents, the same trend is obvious. My question is: Would the hon. Minister be pleased to indicate as to how these figures reconcile with the of-repeated claim that the situation in Kashmir has improved?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, we have been often saying and the Government has very clearly mentioned that we are having a proxy war with Pakistan and that Pakistan has forced a proxy war on India in every manner. What the hon. Member is pointing out of 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994 is when this movement started. It started on a different angle. In 1991, with Pakistan's involvement in a higher degree, it started spreading manifold. That is why, if you see the figures, Sir, the number of attacks on security forces by militants has increased and the reaction of the security forces has also increased. The militants' attacks on security forces and the security forces' attacks on militants, and the militants carrying on their activities—they are increasing in that manner. That is why the figures have gone up. So, we have said while answering the last question also that in the last three months there is an upsurge in their activities. We have not said that in the last three months the situation has come down. But, overall, the mood of the people has changed because the activities of the militants—rapes, extraction of money, kidnappings, and many other things—have irritated or have brought anger to the common man. And we have tried to go with the people so that they could be brought into the mainstream, by curbing the militancy with a strong hand. That is way the number of militants killed has gone very high in this period. Similarly attacks on the security forces have also been very high because, as we have been saying from the Government side, the ammunition coming from Pakistan, the modern weapons coming from Pakistan have somehow increased. Sir, lately, instead of depending on Kashmiri militants, Pakistan has been trying to send those foreign mercenaries, the Afghanistan Mujahideens, as we call them. On the word of 'Jehad' on the pretext of 'Jehad', all those fundamentalist forces are creating this problem. And let me assure this hon. House that it is a very, very difficult situation that our paramilitary forces are facing and with a very brave face they are fighting those forces. We have to keep the people in the mainstream. We have to keep the people's confidence. We have to give them the feeling that we are with them, for their security. And taking action against those who are of a different line, who are out of them is a very difficult task. The hon. Member had been the Governor there. He knows the situation. He knows the conditions. He knows the atmosphere. He knows the situation under which our paramilitary forces are functioning. But, over all, we see a change. When we say 'change', we call it an overall change. I am not saying that because last year 200 were killed and this time only 180 have been killed and, therefore, the situation has improved. Sir, figures do not really give the indication of improvement in the situation to that degree as the mood of the people gives. Today, the mood of the people is certainly seen as a change. It is not our observation. Many independent organisations have said that the mood of the people has changed. And that is why, Sir, if you recollect we took all the initiative; even a calculated risk. For the last six months, we have been saying on the bunker issue that we do not want to come into their religious functions, their religious affairs and for the last six months, we have been trying this. And this time, they wanted to link it with the Amarnath yatra. Some of the organisations—Harkatul-Ansar and Harkatul-Mujahidien—have given a threat that they will not allow the Amarnath yatra to continue. We took a calculated risk. We said, "all right, if you take the responsibility, we

have an open mind. That is why we have removed the bunkers, in consultation with the local leaders, the local religious leaders and the local Administration. We said that if they took over the responsibility in respect of that religious place and ensured that the militants do not come in, we would not have any objection. Therefore, Sir, the Government's objective is to curb the militancy. At the same time, we also want to create a proper feeling in the minds of our brothers and sisters there so that they come into the mainstream.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, sixty-two terrorists who were involved in the Hazratbal incident of October-November, 1993, were let off. Is it not a fact that some of these terrorists are now indulging in terrorist activities again and have contributed to the recent intensification of terrorism in the State? Therefore, would it not be correct to say, in connection with the Hazratbal incident, that the Government first surrendered its option at the time of cordon, then surrendered its laws at the time of the release of the 62 terrorists and now has surrendered its prestige by removing the bunkers in regard to which it has been insisting for the last one year? Would this not add to the aggressive and bellicose attitude on the part of the terrorists and is it not something which would have a similar effect as we saw in 1989 when seventy hard-core terrorists were released between September and December which really led to the large-scale terrorism in Kashmir?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, as far as the Hazratbal incident is concerned, the State Government handled it in a way which they thought fit at that time. We were keeping a very close watch. At no stage we intervened. The objective was that it should not lead to further problems. But we kept a very close watch. The State Government interacted with the people and whatever decision they thought best was taken.

I am sure the hon. Member would agree that it was not only the Government, but the other people also appreciated the fact that we had kept patience so that the situation did not flare up. After all, what was the intention of the Government? The intention was to tackle the situation in the proper way. Otherwise, the militants would have created problems not only in Kashmir, but in other parts of the country as well. This was a respected place. This was a holy shrine. Using this opportunity, they wanted to create further problems. Therefore, our attempt was that we must keep a watch and we must see that this was sorted out in a peaceful manner. We made our best efforts. Of course somebody else could have a different opinion on that. 'A' may say something, 'B' may say something and 'C' may say something. But the Government acted in the national interest.

In regard to his second point about the hard-core militants, you would agree that no hard-core militant is ever released. No hard-core militant who is involved in killings, etc., is ever released. But sometimes, the screening Committee, on the basis of information from the State Administration, recommends the release of some people. When I go on a visit, sometimes, some people approach me and tell me: 'My son is not a militant; please check his case'. Then, I refer such cases. Sometimes, Members and ex-Members of Kashmir refer some cases. The Screening Committee goes into such cases. As I said, no hard-core militant is every released. But there may be a case where we may find that a yong man has been caught along with a militant. He himself may not be a hard-core militant but if action is taken against him, he may turn into a hard-core militant. In such cases, we do take some risk because we do not want that complete alienation should take place. Sometimes, we have to take such risks. We have to trust people. While doing so, we may fail sometimes. But for the national interest, we have got to take such a

risk, we have got to take such a calculated risk. The objective is that more and more people do not take to militancy.

Mr. Chairman, on certain occasions, we have to take some risks because it would not only be in the interest of Jammu and Kashmir, but it would also be in the national interest. Let me assure the House that the State Administration, the para-military forces, the Army and the Police are all working hard in curbing militancy. At the same time, we are making efforts to bring the other people, our brothers and sisters there, to the mainstream. Our aim is to bring back normalcy. When we take some risk, it may not turn out to be much useful. It is possible. I agree with the hon. Member. But let me assure the House that we are very strict in curbing militancy. Simultaneously, we are also trying to bring the people who feel alienated in one form or another—perhaps, due to some communication gap—back to the mainstream.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, when one goes into the statement and when one takes into account the number of incidents that are taking place, one finds that the situation is far from normal. The Minister himself has admitted that our security forces are facing a very difficult task, though there are signs of improvement and change in the mood of the people. But the Home Minister has declared that within six months elections will be held in the State. Of course, nobody denies that popular rule should be restored. But whenever there is a talk of elections, the number of incidents is increasing. The Government can always hold elections at short notice, but this periodical declaration of holding elections and not sticking to the schedule will not be appropriate. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister on what basis he has made the statement that within six months popular rule will be restored, because the political process has not started even today. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister who will participate in the elections and who will take charge of the elections.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): About the kind of statement which is attributed to me, if the hon. Member has gone through the entire statement, he would be able to understand the implications of what I have stated. The basis on which I have made this statement is not because of the militancy or the situation as it is prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir but because due to international forces certain things are happening in that area. If international forces were not to meddle in the situation as it is prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, I can assure the House that within six months we can hold the elections.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Sir, in paragraph 2 of the reply, the hon. Minister has stated that anti-militancy operations are being conducted in a sustained manner with a view to curbing and containing violence generated by the militants and their mentors across the border. It is common knowledge that Pakistan has been providing arms and ammunition to the terrorists. The intention seems to create trouble in Punjab and Kashmir. The series of bomb blasts in Bombay was one of such attempts by Pakistan to destabilize this country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will take up this matter seriously in the international fora and see to it that Pakistan is declared as a country sponsoring terrorist activities and is dubbed as a terrorist State. Part (b) of my question is one which I posed to the Government again and again. Pakistan is conducting training camps for terrorists in the Pakistan-occupied territory of Kashmir. Would be take some active steps to see that these training camps are dismantled?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, if you recollect, from the middle of 1993 there was a marginal improvement in the

situation. But these militants started attacking our political leaders. In the last eight or nine months, some prominent people, one ex-Minister, one ex-Speaker and one ex-MLA were killed. Then the tactics changed, to divide people on communal lines. This shows frustration on the part of the militants, that they got frustrated and, instead of attacks on security and other places, they changed their tactics, and that is why this upsurge has come about in the last three, four months. We are concerned about it. We convened a meeting two, three days back where the hon. Prime Minister has expressed his concern to the State Administration and the para-military forces. We are monitoring the situation because, while on the one hand this upsurge shows their frustration, on the other hand it has gone high, and that makes us concerned. We are aware of it and we shall control it to the required degree soon.

With regard to the second point that the hon. Member has made, she is very right. On the arrest of Mr. Yakub Memon, he has shared information with our agencies and he said how Pakistan is bent upon destabilizing our country in many ways. We have been saying it in every international forum. My colleague, Mr. Bhatia is here and he knows how, at every stage, we have projected to the world how Pakistan is interfering in our internal affairs and with what intention. Whenever foreign Ambassadors and other dignitaries have been meeting us, we have been giving the location of the camps in their territory. We have given the locations and details, and at every forum we have been saying that because of the activities of Pakistan, the way they are indulging in them, they must be declared a terrorist State if there is any concern for human rights. While on the one hand the whole world is talking about human rights, on the other hand this is what is happening in a neighbouring State of ours, about which we are giving total information to the international fora. Efforts are on from our Government's side. Let me assure the hon. Member that the Government is giving the total picture, a clear picture. We are giving a transparent picture of the total situation to anybody who is coming from the foreign embassies. Delegations have gone to Kashmir, Ambassadors and High Commissioners have gone there; they met the people and talked to them. Now, gradually the international forum is realizing the activities of Pakistan. I am sure that with our honesty, with our transparency and with our sincerity of approach, the world will know that Pakistan has been trying to destabilize us, and I am very hopeful that the Government's efforts to see that Pakistan is declared a terrorist State will succeed ultimately. . . (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questich Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assistance received from Foreign countries

*243. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL Alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of assistance received by the public and private institutions during 1992-93 from foreign countries;

(b) what are the names of the institutions and persons who have received such assistance alongwith the amounts thereof; and

(c) the names of countries from where such assistance has been received?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Foreign Contribution amounting to Rs. 803 crores (provisional) is reported to have been received by associations during 1992-93.